

FIRST CLASS MAIL



A Publication of
THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 88, ABINGTON, PA 19001

The Blurb

JACK HARING
VIRGINIA HARING - W3IIM
2113 Edoehill Drive
Furlong PA 18925

W3IIM

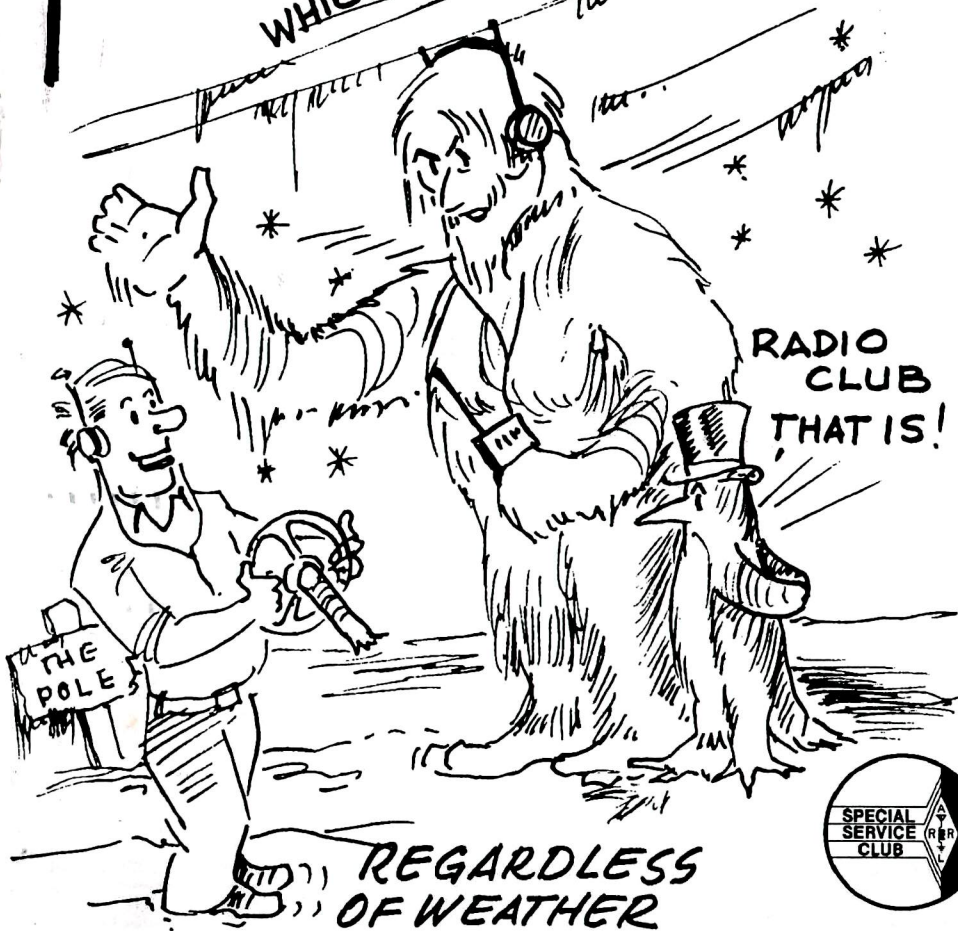
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The Blurb

March 1994

phil-mont ATTRACTS EVERYBODY
WHICH WAY TO PHILMONT?



VOLUME 44

NUMBER 3

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. *Blurp* subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10.00 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets sometime after 7:30 p.m. on the first non-holiday WEDNESDAY of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street, or parking garage on 21st street.

ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

Amateur Radio License Examinations - the first non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 p.m. - *SHARP!*

CLUB INFORMATION

24-Hour Information Number at W3TKQ: **(215) 448-1139**

Repeater frequencies: 147.03 MHz (Roxboro input requires no PL)

PL required for off-site receiver (OSR) access:

Bucks County 131.8 Hz—Center City 103.5 Hz—Lansdale 114.8 Hz

444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

Simplex frequency: 147.51 MHz

Packet BBS frequency at W3TKQ: 144.99 MHz

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

STATIONS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz. Repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

W3TKQ - The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3PWG

AMATEURS (with license) ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO OPERATE W3TKQ.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: KB3IV, Ed Masarsky, 15 Poe Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095 (215) 572-5238

1st VICE PRESIDENT: WU3I, Steve Hoch, 4638 Oakland Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124 (215) 535-8061

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W3BBB (94); N3FVI (94); AA3EP (95); W3IRS (95); W3IIM (A); K3KUD (A); W3RM (A)

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 TVI: W3VVS
 W3TKQ: KB3IV
 Welcome: NEEDED

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Publisher/Typist: W3IIN

DEADLINE: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy **MUST** be in the hands of the Editor at the Bored of Directors' Meeting!

NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET
LAST WED	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	W3TKQ OPERATORS' NET

**APPLE BYTES**

Don Gordon, WB3KOJ

Don Gordon, WB3KOJ

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 03 Butch Miller - KA3WVT*
- Elaine Spencer (XYL W3BBB)
- David Witkowski - N3KGG
- 04 John Mills, VI - N3NNM
- 06 Marilyn Miller (XYL K3KNH)
- Lydia Vold (XYL W3SGR)
- 07 June Faye (XYL W3RCE)
- 09 Fayette Toren (XYL W2GMA)
- 11 Gale Ackerman (XYL WA3AUN)
- Jim Parker - N3KGH
- 12 Donald Stasney - N3LJC
- 14 Peg Lamberti (XYL KA3TLE)
- 15 Dottie Scialdone-Maresca - K3YPH*
- 16 Kay Craigie - WT3P
- Susan Vece (XYL N3PWT*)
- 20 Eyan Hagerty - N3LPM*
- 21 Ben Roeshman - W3LKI
- Paul Trueax - WF2X
- 24 John Meksa - N2RCJ
- 25 Perry Blum - N3AXJ
- Jerrie Haldeman (XYL W3PST)
- 26 Anna Madara (XYL W3PWG)
- 31 Ted Lada - N3FTZ

*Indicates New Member - 1993-1994

1994 AMATEUR LICENSE EXPIRATIONS

It's time to fill out the 610 form, and get one of those 10-year type licenses:

Jan. - W3DSG & N2RM	Jul. - W3GRY
Mar. - W2SAI & W3SHA	Sep. - N3DHI & K3TEF
Apr. - K3PHC & K3OJA	Oct. - WB3JHX
May - WB3CMM & W3RCE	Dec. - KA3NKT, K3RAB, WA3TPH

HELP PHIL-MONT

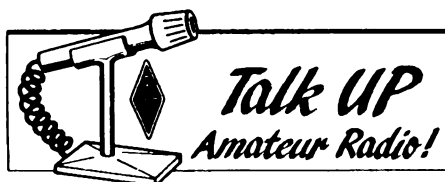
Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club...contact our new Treasurer Dave Witkowski - N3KGG for details.

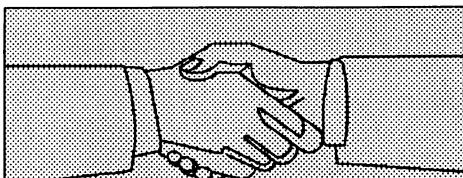
CQ Radio Officers

As project "Normandy 94" makes the transition from a dream toward reality, only five months remain before the **Liberty Ship John W. Brown** casts-off its lines, and heads out to sea to join the **Jeremiah O'Brien** and **Lane Victory** on their 10,000-mile round-trip journey to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Invasion of Europe on June 6, 1944.

Every position aboard the ship will be an important one, and the Radio Officer will certainly be a vital one. Not only will they have the customary ship's communications needs, but they can expect to have officers from their organization aboard generating radio traffic. This is along with the normal requirements for current weather, news and related ship's business and information. Also, if there are medical emergencies, they must have reliable and efficient communications over long distances. Crew members will also be interested in receiving a daily news sheet.

The R.O. will be much more than a passive member of the ship's crew on this adventure! It's not too early to hear from members who have current U. S. Coast Guard and F.C.C. Licenses and documents, and who are available for portions of this great "Last Convoy." If you qualify and are interested, or if you have any questions, or need assistance regarding renewal of your papers, please contact Project Liberty Ship at P.O. Box 25846 Highlandtown Station, Baltimore, MD 21224-0846. ☺





NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

CALL:	N3PRA
NAME:	James Foley
HANDLE:	Jim
CLASS:	Technician
ADDRESS:	2003 Bridle Lane Oreland, PA 19075
HOME PHONE:	(215) 233-4183
BUSINESS PHONE:	
OCCUPATION:	Market Research
INTERESTS:	W3TKQ
CALL:	N3QMH
NAME:	William Sullivan
HANDLE:	Bill
CLASS:	Technician
ADDRESS:	84 Drummers Lane Wayne, PA 19087-1514
HOME PHONE:	(610) 688-7258
BUSINESS PHONE:	(215) 581-2109
OCCUPATION:	Radio Engineer
INTERESTS:	Repeater/Technical, W3TKQ
CALL:	W3UI
NAME:	Henry Platt
HANDLE:	Henry
CLASS:	Extra
ADDRESS:	520 North 15th Street Philadelphia, PA 19130
HOME PHONE:	(215) 564-4666
BUSINESS PHONE:	
OCCUPATION:	Retired Lawyer
INTERESTS:	W3TKQ, VE program

The PREZ SEZ

Ed Masarsky, KB3IV



I received the following letter from VE1ONE, and want to share it with everyone.



Queen Elizabeth High School

Feb. 1, 1994

Mr. Ed Masarsky
Amateur Radio Operator
Franklin Institute of Science
Philadelphia Pa 19095

Dear Ed:

I had the great pleasure of hearing Henry (W3UI) come back to my CQ at 19:50 z on Jan. 28, from the Franklin Institute. We had a great QSO during which I suggested your group might like to join a QSO we have scheduled for Tuesday Feb. 22 at 16:00 Z. At that time the station GB2SM will call my school (Queen Elizabeth High) on 14.144 MHz. This is the station in the London Science Museum in west London.

We will have some science students ready to talk with them about the museum, some of its exhibits and the role of the radio station. It would be a pleasure to QSY and have a three-way with you near 14.190 MHz if at all possible. I think it would be a rare and wonderful QSO for all involved if we can manage it.

The four amateur operator/teachers at our school have just received a grant to set up the station VE1QEH and we are presently setting up the station. We may not have the beam up by then, and are not sure how well we will get out, but we are optimistic. This really sounds exciting and I think about excite our students as well.

We will look for you around 14.190 on the 22nd of this month, and thank you in advance for the opportunity. Please thank Henry again for the very interesting chat we had on an icy Saturday. 73,

Sincerely,

Glenn Gorvett
Teacher/Amateur Radio Operator (VE1ONE).

1929 Robie St. • Halifax, N.S. • Canada B3H 3G1 • 1-902-421-6804

W3TKQ is known far and wide, and is always in demand. If anyone has a special contact they want to make through the station, please contact any of our volunteer operators. We welcome all members to visit the station as guest operators, to make the contact themselves.

The weather over the last two months has slowed-down some of Phil-Mont's activities, but we're back to full speed now!

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the March General Meeting, where we will trace the reconstruction of W3TKQ, and actually visit the station. ☺

UPCOMING

**Mar 2 General Meeting Program:
A W3TKQ Tour
plus videos of its construction
and dedication.**

**Mar 3 License Examinations at
The Franklin Institute**
**Mar 16 Directors' meeting at
N3FTC & WU3I's**

**Apr 6 General Meeting Program:
A Double Feature!
Phil-Mont Does Dayton
(the original 1984 masterpiece)
~ and ~**

the premier showing of the its sequel,
**Phil-Mont Does Dayton II—
The Next Generation**

**Apr 7 License Examinations at
The Franklin Institute**
**Apr 13 Directors' meeting at
N3GMH's**

**May 4 General Meeting Program:
ARRL Night with
Kay Craigie, WT3P
ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director**
**May 5 License Examinations at
The Franklin Institute**
May 18 Directors' meeting

HAMFESTS

**Mar 5 ABSECON, NJ
Shore Points ARC**

**Mar 13 YORK, PA
York Springfest**

**Mar 26-27 TIMONIUM, MD
Baltimore ARC**

**April 10 NEW CASTLE, DE
Penn-Del ARC**

**April 29-
May 1 DAYTON, OH
Hamvention '94**

V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must present positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. **The ARRL VEC's 1994 test fee is \$5.75; there is no charge for a Novice test.**

•The FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q
(215) 879-0505 day, (215) 482-0386 home

•BELLMAWR, NJ

Monthly, 3rd Thursday—Bill Helmatag
(609) 546-7710

•BRYN MAWR

Irregularly—Bob Lees
(215) 265-6032

•LEVITTOWN

Monthly, 1st Saturday—George LeNoir, WR3B
(215) 943-4886

•LINWOOD, PA—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)

Quarterly—Barb Levine, AA3DV
(215) 859-9210, (302) 792-7760 home

•MORRISVILLE

Monthly, 3rd Thursday—Dave Munson, NM3K
(215) 788-7515

•POTTSTOWN

Monthly, 1st Monday—Warren Erdman K3ZXQ
(215) 679-5764

•TELFORD

Monthly, 3rd Monday—Warren Erdman K3ZXQ
(215) 679-5764

•UNIVERSITY OF PA

Monthly, Last Saturday—Garrett Klein, WZ3G
(215) 898-8538 shack, (215) 222-8752 home

•WARMINSTER

Odd Months, Last Wed.—Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ
(215) 343-3494

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP (215) 324-0167

April 10 Super Cities Walk

May 14 M.S. Spring Classic Bike Run

June 11 Arthritis Bikeathon

June ?? Core States Bike Race

July ?? Paddlerama

Sept 17-18 M.S. 150 City-to-Shore Bike Tour

Bob's statement that, "you don't have to know anything, you can buy everything; and most Hams do buy everything," is a concerned observation with merit.

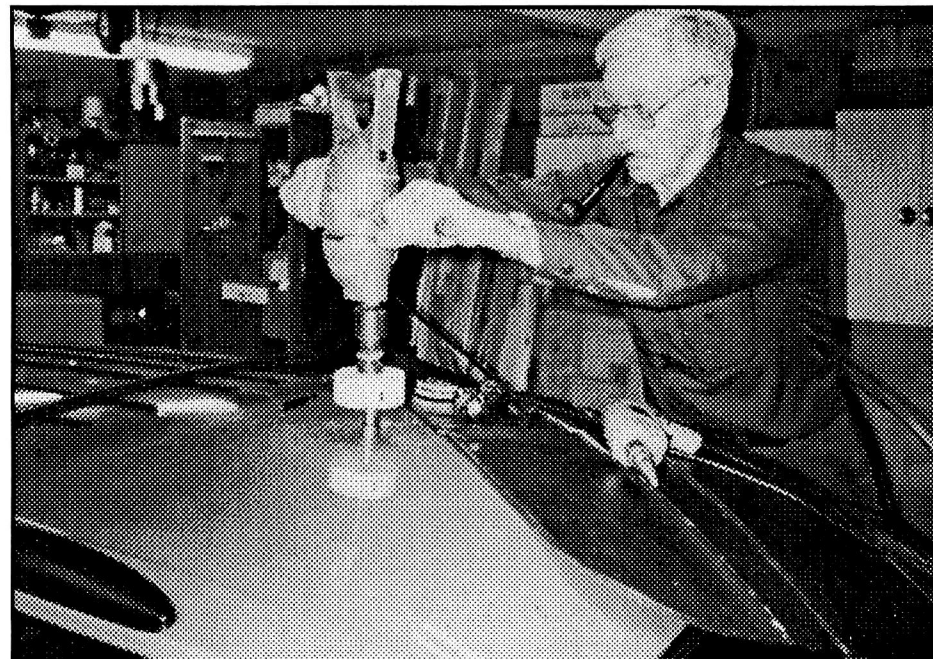
His desires of Phil-Mont are that, "the nets get back to being directed, disciplined nets. At one time Phil-Mont was very proficient in Emergency Traffic Handling." Bob would also like to see some informal chat following the nets, so they would be more than just a callsign check-in.

Sharing some further thoughts, he hopes that we "remember that we are *The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club*, not the radio club of The Franklin Institute, and that the identity and strength of the club is derived from mobile radio." Bob views the '03 repeater "as the most precious asset of the club" stat-

ing "the thing that has really preserved this club is the fact that there are a lot of people in it who have a variety of operating interests, but the one interest shared by everyone is mobile operation, or at least operation on the repeater."

Bob Thomas is a gentleman in every respect. His concerns for the hobby reach out beyond the scope of the club or Amateur Radio equipment. It is for the youngsters you'll find his concern. Not that they have to be up to his, or anyone else's standards, but to not let themselves settle for so little. Technology is growing by leaps and bounds, and if they become a generation of purchasers, rather than innovators, they may bind their own hands in the future of the world. ☺

How to make a grown "ham" cry!



'BBB drilling a 3/4" hole in 'VVS's new Taurus wagon—with only 400 miles on it!

graduation he spent a little over a year with El-Tronics in North Philadelphia.

In November of 1951 he went to work with RCA as a Design Engineer, working with television studio equipment, and in 1960, he was a member of the design team for the first-ever all solid-state broadcast video recorder.

1960 was also the year Bob married his wife, Phyllis.

He has had a lot of original work patented, where he is registered as the inventor, assigning the patent to RCA, which was a standard practice. Some of his most significant contributions were in the advancement of recording technology. In 1980 he represented RCA in the first meetings of the High Definition Standards Committee.

He took early retirement from RCA in late 1982, and in 1983 began working for ABC, in the Equipment Planning Department, which later became the Technology Planning Department as it broadened to encompass more than hardware. Bob was promoted to Director of this department in 1987.

As Director he had the responsibilities for the Engineering Labs and the selection of recording formats, cameras, lenses, monitors and special effects. Bob's group made field and lab tests of all the available equipment, and made conclusions regarding the best technical choice.

Bob enjoyed his job with ABC, even though it required a daily commute to New York, when he was not traveling to other places for the company.

Bob discussed the super slow motion camera that is actually a High Definition Camera, which, to show true slow motion, had to operate at three times the speed of the picture rate of normal television. Another tidbit of information Bob shared was that the show "Nightline" was the first application, for network program distribution, of fibre

optic technology. Although AT&T had the them in place, Bob was part of the team that evaluated the modems that converted the video to the modulated light signal on the fibre, using 3:1 video compression.

Bob retired from ABC in 1992.

He's been a member of Phil-Mont for roughly 40 years, hearing about the club from one of its founders, George King, W3PXY, who he had talked with on the air, as well as they both worked at RCA at the same time. 'PXY had dropped off to Bob a couple copies of the "TVI Retreat," (the predecessor of the *Blurb*) for him to look at. Because most people were using prewar and immediate postwar transmitters, that really emitted harmonic radiation, TVI was a major concern.

Phil-Mont was originally on ten meters, and since filtering and shielding the rigs was not done well, the obvious solution was to go mobile, so at least your neighbors weren't looking for you. George often referred to the "TVI Retreat" as the "Blurb," and Bob noted that when the reason for the existence of the club went well beyond TVI avoidance, it was an obvious choice for the new name of the club's newsletter.

Bob has served as a president of Phil-Mont, and also was the first Chairman of Field Day, back in 1957. Mowing grass, putting up masts, towers, antennas and dipoles, as well as residing in tents, Bob said that, with the help of several good operators, Phil-Mont was well represented.

Asked for some opinions about Amateur Radio in general, he responded, "I'd like to see Hams know more about what's inside their rice boxes. Ham Radio is becoming a communications discipline, and not particularly a technical discipline." Noting that two recent recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize cited that they started on the road to their work via their experience in Amateur Radio,

MINUTES

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Bob Wilcox, KE3CZ, Secretary



KB3IV opened the 530th General Meeting at 7:50 p.m. Ed reported that there was no January Mid-Month, so everything was status quo.

N3KGG for the Treasury: Ah well, he was not present. Guess he's already on vacation.

AA3BB reported that Herbert Scott-N3OLK and Tracal Topp-N3PDP, were voted-in as members, as the Prez was thoughtful enough to conduct a phone ballot on the pending applications. Bill reported that there will be one application voted on at the February Mid-Month, and also that he had been receiving a good amount of applications.

KB3IV for Net Controls: Anyone interested in helping with the 2 or 75-meter Net Control positions please contact Ed. Also noted was the fine job by W3HFY on 10-meters.

N3IEI for Publicity and Field Day, reported that the work is under way for the upcoming Field Day event. 'Anyone have a lawn mower? Chris would appreciate the help of everyone in making this a total Club success.

AA3EP tried to sing his song to a different tune, but it still comes out "HELP, I need some BODIES!" Special Events and Public Service Events are quickly approaching. April 10th is the "Super Cities Walk" and May 14th is the "Spring Classic Bike Tour." If you can help out, give Charlie a

call, if not, donate to his singing lesson fund.

KA3WWK reported for Welcoming. There were 31 members and 14 guests present. The guest list included Maureen McCloskey, Chris Hoch, Chris Narewski, Anna Popovic, Jim Foley-N3PRA, Bob Loehrig-KA3TTA, Pete Barstow-N3LJA, Steve Scace, Bill Sullivan-N3QMH, Bob Spanks-WA1UCG, Tom Mareska, Jack Jones-W3NTD, Dave Stafford-KE3LK and Stuart Sadwin. Phew, glad to see all of you there!

WU3I on the VE Program and W3TKQ: The VE team could use the assistance of some more VEs. If you have a General Class or higher ticket, and would like to become a VE, or have already been accredited, contact Dusty, ND3Q. W3TKQ could use an AT hard/floppy controller card MFM drive. A 386SX-40 board, a VGA video card, a case, 20 Mb hard drive, a floppy drive and 1 Mb RAM have been received. A VGA monitor is also needed. 'TKQ needs dual band radios for testing; some Kenwoods have been tried, and have been suffering from intermod. Ed is working on getting the TEN-TEC back to the factory for repairs. The PRO-67 beam is aimed backwards, so that will be first on the list of antenna work when the weather breaks. Phew, and you thought Welcoming was a paragraph full.

KB3IV received an inquiry about the

Continued on page 7.

THE W 3 T K Q REPORT

I hope everyone survived this icy winter without too many bumps, bruises, and dented fenders. If you're suffering from cabin fever, why not go to your club station? It's a great cure for the winter blahs.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the W3TKQ volunteers for a job well done in '93. Without an operator, a radio is just an expensive dust collector. The equipment value is minor compared to the importance of their contribution. Since Santa didn't come through with our wish list, we'll have to switch to plan B.

First on the list is a dual-band rig for position 1. This would accomplish three things: first it would get us on UHF, for which we already have an antenna. Second, we would move the two-meter radio (Kenwood 2550) down to position 7 in order to facilitate ATV simplex communication. Third, the Midland radio would be moved to position 6 and be dedicated to packet. This would eliminate the packet/ATV switch, the intermod on the ATV intercom frequency, and the operators running from one end of the console to the other to work ATV.

If you hear of a good deal, or would like to contribute, get in touch with KB3IV, WU3I or me. Don't forget the W3TKQ operators' net at 8:00 p.m., on the last Wednesday of each month. ☺

—Bill Popovic, N3FVI

Phil-Mont Pro-Phile

*Learning about our Club and Hobby, through the people with whom we share them.
by Bob Wilcox, KE3CZ*

Robert G. "Bob" Thomas, W3QZO

Bob was born on October 6, 1927, in Delaware County Hospital in Upper Darby. He had an early start in the electrical and mechanical related fields, as his father had a machine shop in the basement, and he often would tinker around with some projects.

Bob grew up in Brookline. For those of you who cannot find this on the local maps, you might find it interesting that it is now merged with Havertown. This occurred because back before there were things called ZIP Codes there was no way to distinguish this Brookline from the much larger Brookline in the Pittsburgh area. Insurance Companies used to support Volunteer Fire Companies in

the communities based on the policies they wrote in that area, and the local Brookline did not receive any funding, as all policies were assumed to be the western PA namesake.

Bob attended Haverford High School, and, during his last two years there, also worked part time at Herbach & Rademan, as an apprentice in their manufacturing division.

He graduated in 1950 from Drexel University with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering. That year he also earned his first Amateur License, a Class B (General). While attending college, Bob worked for Shallcross, in Collingdale, which made precision resistors and audio attenuators. After



Two Satellites Are Crippled By Disturbance

By Rosanna Tamburri
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

OTTAWA, Jan. 24, 1994—A Powerful geomagnetic disturbance crippled two Canadian communications satellites, disrupting television and radio transmissions and numerous other services throughout the country.

One satellite hasn't yet responded to instructions beamed from Earth, and may have to be written off as space junk. The other was repaired Thursday night. The satellites, known as Anik E1 and Anik E2, are operated by Telesat Canada, which is controlled by Canada's major telephone companies.

The incident has raised concerns about the reliability of satellite communications on which many industries now rely. The disturbance sent a powerful burst of static electricity surging through the satellites. Static electricity "can be the killer of any satellite," said Earl Main, an Intelsat engineer. Intelsat is a global satellite broadcasting consortium.

Static electricity has previously interrupted satellite service, but the damage has never been as extensive as that incurred by Anik E1 and E2. Telesat officials said "a failure of this magnitude is unparalleled in the satellite industry."

The incident knocked out power to the Anik E1 and E2's momentum flywheels that keep the satellites pointing in the right direction. Telesat officials said the geomagnetic disturbance was 100 times greater than any other previously detected. They said that they believe the problem wasn't

caused by defective equipment. The flywheels were built by General Electric Co.'s aerospace division, which was acquired last year by Martin Marietta Corp.

The Anik satellites are used by major television and radio broadcasters, department stores, banks, hotel chains, telephone companies and manufacturers. By late yesterday most disrupted services had been restored as a result of Telesat rerouting service onto other satellites.

The satellite failure blanked-out television service to some parts of the country. In major Canadian cities the broadcasters reestablished transmission quickly by switching to underground fiber optic cable. But in more remote areas, including northern Canada, transmission was interrupted for hours. Telephone service in parts of northern Canada was disrupted until telephone companies were able to switch to ground lines.

Canadian Press, the country's biggest news service, wasn't able to transmit data for more than seven hours Thursday to more than 100 newspapers and 400 radio stations. "For awhile it looked like a doomsday scenario," said Jim Poling, a Canadian Press vice president.

The incident will be costly for Telesat. The Anik E2 satellite, which is still out of service, isn't insured, and Telesat fears it may face a write-off of 300 million Canadian dollars (US\$228.8 million) if it can't be repaired. ☹

Central High School is Co-ed!

Mark Zaharchuk, WA3CRM

It was one of those phone calls that reaches to the heart and soul of your teenage memories.

On a dark and stormy November general meeting night, I picked up a voice-mail message at W3TKQ. It was a voice with an urgent mission. Dr. Joe Odonnell, faculty advisor to the Central High School Physics Society, was interested in expanding the Society into electronics by rekindling the amateur radio club. I returned the call, and within a few weeks, I found myself where I had last been on a sunny June day in 1966.

I approached those stairs frequented as we headed for the field, and those memories: hand ball, Coach Presto and the 1/2-mile run, and the Vice-Principal's Corvette. I wondered what ever became of The 807 Society and station K3GTZ?

The reception from Dr. Odonnell, the Physics Dept. Chairman, Dr. Bob Harmon and staffer Steve Nasavco (232) was warm. A copy of the Student Handbook was a sufficient bribe to commit myself to be their Industrial Advisor. I was impressed with the intensity, motivation, courtesy and numerous questions of these students. Not to mention my reluctant acceptance that CHS was co-ed.

The students have had a good start into the amateur radio hobby. Several students tested in November, and received their licenses just after Christmas. In a little over a week, they reported contacts with other licensed Alumni of the High School.

The Society's intention is to purchase a VHF transceiver kit as a learning exercise, and for the club station which will have a good 200' run to proposed antennas on the

roof. In the meantime, I lent them spare transceivers and antennas. Located in the basement area, space for the Society is quite limited, and equipment must be stored after use.

A letter to their Alumni Association could result in some assistance with a donation of surplus, small amateur, equipment (a packet TNC for an Apple would be nice), practical radio or electronic project books, or usable electronic parts. If a PMRC member would like to contribute, please contact Dr. Joe Odonnell, CHS Physics Dept., or me at (215) 493-8602 (home).

P.S. IT'S OFFICIAL-Hams have been displaced by COMPUTERS. During the California crisis, INTERNET overshadowed hams handling traffic. ☹

[Try using Internet when there's no power or telephones—ed.]

Minutes continued from page 5.

repeater's time announcement being a few minutes off, and after cowering (actually just stepping down off the telephone books he usually stands on) behind the lectern, suggested the question be directly sent to "Der Repeatermeister." Politicians—they're all alike!

50-50 was sold by Anna Popovic, drawn by Chris Narewski and won by visitor Bob Spanks, WA1UCG.

WU3I introduced Bob Ross, N2OML, whose presentation was High Definition Television.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. ☹

106TH MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS FEBRUARY

27 candidates pass 34 elements
13 new amateurs plus 6 upgrades

VE team members:

Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman
Russ Stafford, AA3CH; Barb Levine, AA3DV;
Al Tribble, W3STW; Joel Kleinguenther, KA3SWU

AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp



**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
SCIENCE MUSEUM**

For Information Call ND3Q at
(215) 482-0386 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.



Notice

Due to the editor's pressing appointment with his brand new granddaughter, not to mention good old SOL and our "Southern Reporter," the Blurb was put to bed prior to the February Director's meeting. Those members who actually read this rag will find those missing minutes in the April issue. Stay warm!

"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"—for the courtesy 🚗!

Improve Your Rubber Duck

Russ Hamilton, W2FXU

What a queer bird the ducky are. Think about it. It never quacks, waddles, swims or flies. It just sits there, and spits out RF in megahertz... in all directions... right through your head. This duck doesn't even swim in your bathtub. Why do they call it a duck?

This rubber thing sticking up out of the top of your wittle wadio is an isotropic radiator. Radiating as it does, in all directions, and placed where it is, on top of your HT with the radio in your face, it resides perhaps less than four inches from your skull while it is doing its thing.

Some say this cannot be good for you. Some say anything oscillating one hundred forty-six million, three hundred seventy thousand times a second, right in front of your konk, has gotta be bad! That's what some say. I say BUSHWA! Can't hurt you any more than a humming bird perched on your ear sucking out a little wax.

On the other hand, I have been a heavy user of HTs and also RF in general. I have lived near power lines, and slept under electric blankets. I have sat in shacks where RF was being manufactured, and pushed out in megawatts. I even like to get up close and look through the door of the microwave oven while the stew sizzles. Lately I have noticed my hair has turned white, and areas of my body that used to be hard, have now turned soft. My joints ache, and I hear creaking noises when I move my knees.

My Bursas in both arms hurt most of the time. I am constipated. A cataract has formed in my right eye. Damn! Could this be the work of my rubber ducky?

With this in mind, I began a program of ducky improvements. First of all, I wrapped a long sheet of aluminum foil around my head, and poked two little holes so I could see out of it. This served as a sort of a shield from that deadly quarter watt of RF spitting out of my HT. It was embarrassing. People used to wonder why the mechanical man was talking into his thumb.

Next I tried a quarter wave reflector made of my wife's curtain rod, mounted on a helmet so that it stuck out a quarter wave in the back, and "reflected" all that RF away from my konk. It looked weird, the Reynolds Wrap around the head, the helmet with the quarter wave spaced out the back... and talking into my thumb.

Then somebody told me I could suck the RF away from me if I put a director out in front of my face, and become a walking beam with my head in the middle of the array. Somebody else told me that foil around my head would de-tune the beam. Somebody else told me just my head would de-tune the beam. That's the trouble with ham radio, somebody is always telling you something you thought you knew is not worth doo-doo from a rubber duck. I just wish somebody would tell me why I lost my hair and why it turned white. 🐞

[Russ, ex-W3VSU, is a past member of PMRC.]

then hit the Return or Enter key, whichever may be the case on your keyboard.

S This is the SEND Command, and will let you send message to hams on full service BBSs and maildrops. It has a couple forms, but it is very uncomplicated.

SP (or plain S) is to send a Personal message to another ham. It would be followed by that ham's callsign. (e.g. **SP KA3SWU** would send a personal message to Joel.) The difficult part with this is, if you connect to a full service BBS and it is NOT the one Joel calls his home-BBS, you will have to follow it with his home-BBS address. Since Joel uses N3FOA, you would type:

SP KA3SWU @ N3FOA.#EPA.PA.USA.NA. It looks scary, but think of it as addressing an envelope to him, and the **@ N3FOA.#EPA.PA.USA.NA** is where he lives. The BBS you're working will take care of the rest, and have that message to him in less time than the US Postal Service, and it won't be wrinkled.

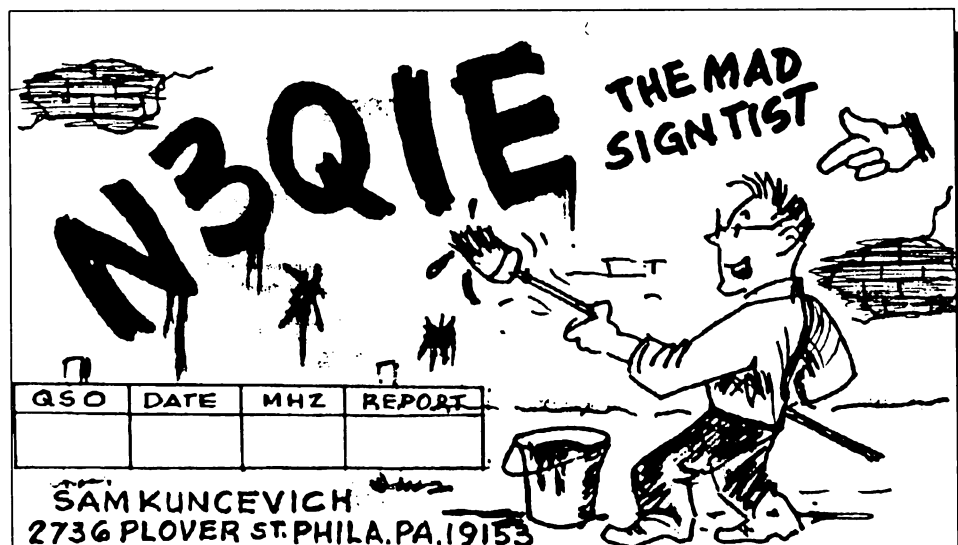
SB is for Sending Bulletins. You should get a little more acquainted with packet before sending bulletins, and if you send a message to the Sysop of the BBS, he or she will usually enlighten you on how to do it properly.

K This is obviously the KILL command. After you read your mail, it is the cour-

teous thing to do so that valuable space can be freed up for storage of newer messages. The easy thing to do here, just before you disconnect from a BBS or maildrop, is to type **KM**, which means Kill Mine. You should also do this if your TNC has a mailbox, so that you do not waste valuable RAM.

N This is good when working Nodes. When on a node type the letter N and hit return (or enter). This will list the nodes that the node you're connected to can work. If you see one you would like to try, even just to see where it will lead you, just type the **<C>**onnect command, followed by the other node's name or callsign, and all the hard work will be done for you. (e.g. When connected to NEPHIL-13, you typed a letter N, and in the list of nodes that came back to you there was a station called ANDAPA-13. If you wanted to connect to it, simply type **C ANDAPA-13** and NEPHIL-13 will get you there. This procedure can go on until you're back to yourself, or work into London, England. Of course, if you want to work DX, just read some of the bulletins on the full service BBSs, or ask some of the Node Hunters (packetees who seek out DX paths).

While these are only the basics, they should be enough to get you started. And once you've gotten started, there will be many who will take the time to help you. ☺



Leon Theremin, pioneer in music

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW—Leon Theremin, a pioneer in the development of electronic music, died in November at the age of 97.

A trained scientist as well as a musician, Mr. Theremin invented an electronic musical instrument that became known as the theremin, which can be described as an early synthesizer.

The theremin was used to provide musical effects in the Beach Boys' song "Good Vibrations."

Mr. Theremin, whose Russian name was Lev Sergeyevich Theremin, demonstrated his instrument in the 1920s in Berlin to Albert Einstein. He ran into trouble with Soviet authorities, at the end of the 1930s, and spent time in a Siberian labor camp. Upon his release, he worked for the KGB, and invented an electronic listening device.

W3VYS

**SAM'S
OTHER
CORNER**

DURING A RECENT MEETING, OUR GUEST SPEAKER HAD SOME UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS WITH THAT INFAMOUS OVERHEAD PROJECTOR!—BETTER CHECK THE WARRANTY!



NEWSLETTERS EXCHANGED

Anne Arundel Radio Club (Maryland)
Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society (BRATS)
Chaverim of Delaware Valley
Cherryville Repeater Association (NJ)
Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club (DLARC)
Delmont Radio Club
Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (Florida)
Marple-Newtown Amateur Radio Club
Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio Club (MARC)
Mobile Sixers Radio Club
Penn Wireless Association
R F Hill Amateur Radio Club
Reading Radio Club
Sanibel Amateur Radio Emergency Unit (Florida)
Sussex Amateur Radio Ass'n (SARA) (Delaware)
The 96 Over The Hill Gang (New Castle, Delaware)
Tompkins County Amateur Radio Club (New York)
Warminster Amateur Radio Club
Worldradio Magazine

Exchanges with additional parties are welcomed.

Call
1-800-32-NEW-HAM
for free information for
prospective hams

More on Lightning, and Lightning Protection

This is the second of four installments.

Gene Pressler, W3ZXV

In last month's issue, we provided you with a quick sketch of the process by which lightning strikes, and, in this article, we will try to put some of that knowledge to practical use.

Most of us operate under conditions which, unless precautions are taken, can materially increase the risk of lightning damage to our homes, our equipment... and ourselves.

The protection of homes, and the electrical/electronic equipment in them, requires a number of considerations, and, unfortunately, none of them alone can provide absolute protection. Lightning may strike a house or antenna structure directly, or it may strike in close enough proximity to cause a high voltage surge to be induced into the wiring, or even the plumbing, near or in the house. The wiring itself and/or any devices connected to it may be damaged.

The first priority, of course, is to prevent damage from direct lightning strikes, but, unless you also take precautions to prevent damage from induced voltages from nearby flashes, your equipment will still be vulnerable.

The way a house is wired is the first thing to be considered in defending it against lightning. House wiring should be installed in strict conformance with the National Electrical Code. Many older houses in particular may not be wired in accordance with later and more improved versions of the code.

Houses should be wired with the proper sized two-wires-and-a-ground for 120 vac circuits with the correct polarities observed. (120 vac circuits use the black wire

for the "hot" side of the line, white for neutral and bare, or green, wire for ground).

One of the most overlooked lightning protection devices available is the relatively inexpensive "whole house" lightning protector, which is installed in the ac service entrance box. These are available at electric supply houses as potted plastic, can-shaped, devices with wires protruding from a threaded neck by which they can be mounted through a knockout hole in the side of the service entrance cabinet. The white wire is connected to the neutral service entrance, and the other two wires to both "hot" sides of the 140 vac service.

While these devices may offer increased protection against lightning entering from outside the house over the power lines, they may not protect the internal house wiring from energy inductively coupled into the house wiring after the point at which these devices are installed. These are simple shunt arrestors, which means that transient energy may be shared with equipment connected to the house wiring until the protector reaches its trigger voltage.

If the distance between the service entrance box and the radio station equipment is longer than 20-25 feet, a secondary protector should be installed at the point where power lines enter the station. Commercial in-line power main protectors are available which place an inductor in series with all legs of the incoming power lines. These have no effect on the 60 Hz power supply, but they present a significant impedance to the fast rise time energy pulses of an incoming lightning strike.

Most houses, from which radio ama-

A Packet Primer

by Bob Wilcox, KE3CZ

Many Amateurs operators have caught the Packet bug, but some still remain fearful of sitting at a keyboard because no one will take the time to explain things to them, and some manuals are written in a manner that is not user friendly to the beginner. Hopefully this little introduction will fill the void. I recommend the Kantronics KPC-3 and a dumb terminal for beginning on 2-meter packet. The Command structure is usually the same between systems, and in this article I will explain the basic ones you will get the most use out of.

First a brief explanation of the different types of stations you will be able to CONNECT to.

Keyboard to Keyboard

This type of CONNECT puts you in direct contact with the other station. He or she will be typing responses directly back to you. You must be patient with this though, as there may be others on the frequency, and also, some folk's fingers are not as fast as others.

Mailbox or PBBS

This refers to the area of a TNC you will likely find yourself in if you're either trying to connect to someone who is not at their station, and has configured the TNC to shift you here, or you may want to connect to this directly to leave a message. That's right, it's the packeteer's answering machine.

Nodes

Nodes can be an interesting subject. Some Nodes will take you on paths to Europe, while others may only extend the range of your station on a certain frequency. Still, a very useful device.

Digipeaters

Similar to Nodes, though the throughput is slightly different, but the result is the same as a Node that will extend the range of your station on the same frequency.

Full Service BBSs

Where all the traffic is! Forwarding of mail to other Full Service BBSs around the world can be found here. Many bulletins relating to Amateur Radio, as well as general topics for discussion, are also here. Sysops (SYSTEM OPERATORs) tend to be very helpful, and look forward to new users.

COMMAND STRUCTURE

C This letter, followed by the callsign of the station you intend to connect to, is the most useful command to know. Without it, you would just sit there, watch the screen scroll for hours, and wake up with blurred vision in the morning. This command can be used to connect to a BBS, maildrop, another station and nodes. You must also be on the frequency of the station you intend to work. (e.g. C KE3CZ —This would attempt to connect to my station.)

B Another important command. When connected to a BBS, maildrop, or a node, this command is the one that will terminate, or say BYE to the station. This command does not work with Keyboard to Keyboard disconnects; with that you will have to type the <Ctrl>C (Hold-down the CONTROL key and tap the letter C), followed by the letter **D** and hit Return or Enter, whichever may be the case for your keyboard.

L Here is a biggie. L by itself stands for LIST. But L can be used with a couple of other letters to make things more definitive. These commands are used when connected to full service BBSs or maildrops.

LB will List Bulletins.

LM will List Mine, meaning messages addressed to you (your callsign).

LL followed by a space and a number, will List the Last number of messages you requested. Example: **LL 10** would list the last ten messages you are able to view.

R Without knowing this one, you could not read anything. See how simple it is, R is for READ. If you have messages waiting for you, which most BBSs and maildrops will tell you on the connect message, you can do one of the following.

RM which is Read Mine, and the messages addressed to you will be sent to you. or

LM (List Mine) then write down the message numbers of each message addressed to you. At this point you can type R followed by a space and the number of the message you want to read, and the messages will be sent to you as you request them. This means if you had a message that was number 1105, you type **R 1105** and

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



Washington, DC

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer forty-nine (49) scholarships for the academic year 1994 - 1995 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of fifty local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds five of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining forty-four (44) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2000 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, on their nets, during training classes, and in their club newsletters.

Additional information and an application form can be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1994 from:

FAR Scholarships
6903 Rhode Island Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purpose of the Amateur Radio Service.



AFFILIATED

teurs operate, have a number of paths over which lightning may enter to cause damage, including house wiring, cable and telephone wiring, antenna transmission lines and antenna rotator control cables. Every one of these possible pathways needs to be considered in devising an effective lightning protection scheme.

If the lightning protection system leaves any entry path unprotected, lightning damage can still occur. There are no shortcuts: complete lightning protection requires the protection of all inputs and outputs to the amateur radio station. That means all antenna and rotor lines, power lines, telephone lines, and each and every other wire or cable which enters the radio room or structure.

In our next article, we will continue our discussion of specific lightning protection for each point of entry. ☺

Veterans' Identification Badges

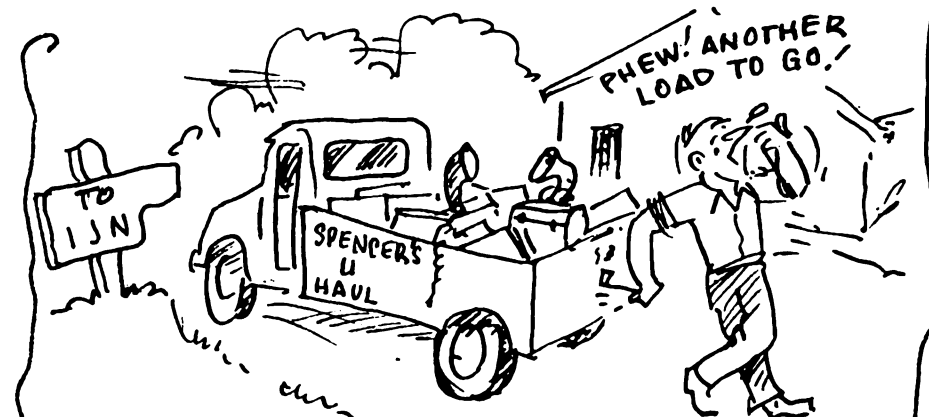
A special identification badge is available for WWII veterans and their parties attending 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Invasion of Europe on June 6, 1944. These badges should be worn while in Europe. Special accommodations, and expedited procedures, are planned to honor persons wearing the badge.

For application forms write: World War II Commemoration Committee, Attn.: Veterans Identification Program, 5001 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22333 ☺

CODE PRACTICE-DAILY!

According to the Reading Radio Club's newsletter, daily code practice can be heard on the Pottstown repeater (147.21) from 8 to 9 p.m.

Sam's
CORNER



SPENCER-BBB HAD A LONG DAY'S
WORK, LOADING UP A COLLECTION OF
HAM GEAR, OF SILENT KEY W3IJN

1994

MARCH

1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM N3FVI	2 GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts after 7:30	3 LICENSE EXAMS at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 p.m. <i>sharp!</i>		5 <i>Absecon Hamfest</i>
6 2M NCS KB2ERL 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS W3PWG	7	8 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM K3JJO	9	10	11	12 ● <i>New Moon</i>
13 2M NCS KB3IV 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS AA3CH <i>York Hamfest</i>	14	15 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	16 DIRECTORS' MEETING at N3FTC & WU3I's	17	18	19
20 2M NCS N3FTY 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS AA2FU <i>Vernal Equinox</i>	21	22 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3STW	23  OPERATORS' NET at 8 PM	24	25	26 <i>Timonium Hamfest Day 1 of 2</i>
27 ○ 2M NCS W3GQD 10M NCS W3HFX 75M NCS KB3IV <i>Palm Sunday & Passover Timonium Hamfest day-2</i>	28			<i>Too much of a good thing is wonderful!</i>		